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Library.

Mr. Eli K. Price,
Rev. Charles T. Krauth,
Dr. George H. Horn,
Dr. Kinderdine,
Prof. Houston.

The reading of the list of surviving members was postponed.

The election of new members was postponed to the next meeting.

And the meeting was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, February 2nd, 1877.

Present, 24 members.

Vice-President, Mr. E. K. PRICE, in the Chair.

The photograph of Mr. Daniel B. Smith was received for insertion in the album.

A letter accepting his appointment to prepare an obituary notice of the late Dr. Jos. Carson, was received from Dr. John B. Biddle, dated Jan. 24, 1877.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Royal Society at Upsal (93, 94, 95; XV ii). Royal Bavarian Academy, November 19, 1876 (XII i, ii, iii; 93, 94, 95). Prof. L. Rütimeyer, Basil, November 6, 1876 (95); Literary and Philosophical Society, Liverpool, January 5, 77 (97), and the University Library at Strasburg (92—95).

Letters of envoy were received from the Royal Society, New South Wales, Sydney, July 12, 1876; Royal Statistical Society, Upsal; Royal Academy, Stockholm; Royal Bava-

rian Academy, Munich; Literary and Philosophical Society, Manchester; and Mr. Linn, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, Harrisburg, returning to the safe keeping of the Library the borrowed MSS. Journal of Colonel Burd.

Donations for the Library were received from the Royal Society, New South Wales; Royal Statistical Society, Upsal; Observatory and Bureau of Statistics, at Stockholm; Royal Society of Antiq., Copenhagen; R. Pruss. A. Berlin; Ger. Geological Society, Berlin; Anthropological Society and Geological Institute, Vienna; Royal Bavarian Academy, Munich; Societies at Ulm and Giessen; Royal Belgian Academy, Brussels: Revue Politique; Astronomical Society, Victoria Institute, and Editors of Nature, London; Literary and Philosophical Society, Manchester; Philosophical and Literary Society, Leeds; Royal Cornwall Pol. Society, Falmouth; Massachusetts Historical Society; D. S. A. Green, Groton, Mass.; Silliman's Journal; Franklin Institute; Zoological Society; Pharmaceutical Association, Philadelphia; Mr. C. A. Ashburner; Librarian of Congress; U. S. Department of State; and the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

The death of Prof. Richard Somers Smith, at the U. S. Academy at Annapolis, Tuesday, January 28, 1877, aged 68, was announced by the Secretary.

The death of Mr. F. B. Meek, at Washington, December 21, 1876, aged 59, was announced by the Secretary.

Prof. Cope displayed and described some Dinosaurian remains (skull, dental bones, &c.) obtained in his last exploration of fresh water strata, in the far West, overlying the marine Cretaceous.

Prof. Cope also communicated a paper entitled "A continuation of researches among the Batrachia of the Coal Measures of Ohio."

Mr. Chase communicated a note on the "Modes of central force which best represent some of the most general forms of chemical activity."

Mr. Blodget read a copy of a bill offered for the conside-

ration of Congress, and now before the House of Representatives, authorizing the President to organize a new Arctic Expedition. Mr. Blodget called attention to the arguments in favor of such an expedition, as at present planned, set forth in a pamphlet of forty pages entitled: "Polar Colonization and Exploration, by Henry W. Howgate." As there was a great deal of postponed business for the meeting of the evening, any further discussion of the subject was, on motion of Dr. LeConte, postponed. Mr. Blodget's resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That the proposed expedition for Polar research, to be organized by the President of the United States, and to be placed under the scientific auspices of the National Academy of Science, is approved by this Society, under the assurance that it will be conducted without material risk to life. Under such conditions it may be productive of valuable results in physical science.

On motion, the reading of the list of members was postponed to the next meeting, and the list of pending nominations for membership, from No. 809 to 831, was read and the claims of each nominee in turn presented by the subscribers to the nomination.

Mr. Blodget Britton offered the following resolution, which was, on motion, seconded, debated and adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That the Officers of the Society be authorized to certify the approval of a bill to relieve charitable devises and bequests from collateral tax; and that this Society unites in the prayer for the passage of such a law.

The following is a copy of the text of the proposed law:

An act to relieve charitable devises and bequests from payment of collateral tax.

WHEREAS, When charitable devises and bequests are made for objects of public good it is unwise to diminish that good by taxation: Therefore

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That all collateral taxes upon legacies and devises for charitable purposes are hereby repealed; and all such taxes not already paid into the State Treasury are hereby relinquished and released.

Mr. Briggs and Mr. Lesley opposed the passage of the

resolution on two grounds: 1. That it is not the business of this Society to advise the Government in uncalled-for cases; and 2, That the action of a collateral tax law on charities, so far from being a hardship and a reminiscence of barbarism, is on the contrary beneficial and proper for stimulating men to the right use of their wealth during their lifetime, and for protecting society in the New World against the growth of those mortmain evils which especially characterize the semi-barbarous times and governments of the past.

The contrary view was taken and supported by Mr. Blodget, Mr. Eli K. Price, and Mr. J. Sergeant Price. After which the resolution was adopted, and the officers accordingly empowered to act.

Mr. Blodget desired the Secretaries to see that a record was made of his disclaimer of any such statements and opinions respecting the character and condition of the foundations of the Masonic Temple and Public Buildings as are ascribed to him by some mistake, in the published Proceedings of the Society, No. 97, page 181. Respecting the first-named building he had not, and never had had any knowledge; and respecting the foundations of the Public Buildings he had always known and asserted their excellence.

On scrutiny of the ballot boxes by the presiding officer the following persons were delared duly elected members of this Society:

809. Prof. F. Reuleaux of Berlin, Chief Commissioner of the German Empire at the Centennial Exhibition.

810. Prof. Rudolf von Wagner of Würtzburg, Judge at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876.

811. Prof. Mariano Barcena, of Mexico.

812. Prof. E. H. Von Baumhauer, of Harlem, President of the Centennial Commission of the Netherlands.

813. Prof. George Stuart, Professor of Languages in the High School, Philadelphia.

814. Mr. W. V. McKean, of Philadelphia.

815. Rev. Charles W. Shields, D. D., Prof. of the Harmony of Science and Revealed Religion, Princeton, N. J.

816. Mr. Franklin B. Gowan, President of the Reading Railroad, Philadelphia.

817. Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., of Philadelphia.

818. Mr. Henry Turner Eddy, C.E., Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Mathematics and Civil Engineering in the University of Cincinnati.

819. Mr. Cyrus F. Brackett, M. D., Professor Physics in Princeton College, N. J.

820. Prof. James Morgan Hart, of the University of Cincinnati.

821. Mr. Henry Armitt Brown, of Philadelphia.

822. Dr. Charles W. Siemens, of London.

823. Hon. M. Russell Thayer, Judge, Philadelphia.

824. Hon. Craig Biddle, Judge, Philadelphia.

825. T. Hewson Bache, M. D., of Philadelphia.

826. John H. McQuillen, M. D., of Philadelphia.

827. Geo. Strawbridge, M. D., of Philadelphia.

828. William Goodell, M. D., University of Pa.

829. Mr. Thos. Frederick Crane, Ph. D., Professor of Spanish and Italian in Cornell University.

And the meeting was adjourned.

Stated Meeting February 16th, 1877.

Present, 14 members.

Vice-President, Mr. E. K. PRICE, in the Chair.

Rev. Dr. Shields, Dr. Goodell, and Dr. McQuillen, newly-elected members, were introduced to the presiding officer and took their seats.

A photograph of Professor Frederick Prime, Jr., was received for insertion in the album.

Letters accepting membership were received from Mr. Henry Armitt Brown, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 6, 1877;